AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-24. (Canceled).

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) A selection system comprising a bacterial cell deficient of ~~araD gene~~L-ribulose-5-phosphate 4-epimerase into which a vector carrying an ~~araD gene, or a catalytically active fragment thereof,~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding an active L-ribulose-5-phosphate 4-epimerase has been added as a selection marker.

Claim 26. (Canceled).

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The selection system ~~according to Claim 27~~of claim 47, wherein ~~said~~ a mutation introduces a stop codon into position 8 of said araD gene.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The selection system ~~according to Claim~~ of claim 25, wherein said bacterial cell is an Escherichia coli cell.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The selection system ~~according to Claim~~ of claim 29, wherein said E. coli is an E. coli strain JM109.

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The selection system ~~according to Claim~~ of claim 29, wherein said E. coli is an E. coli strain DH5 alpha.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising a mutated araD gene with a stop codon at position 8~~, or a catalytically active fragment thereof,~~ as a selection marker.

Claim 33. (Canceled).

Claim 34.   (Currently Amended)   A The vector according to Claim 33 of claim 32, wherein said vector is an expression vector comprising:

(a) an isolated DNA sequence encoding a nuclear-anchoring protein operatively linked to a heterologous promoter, wherein said nuclear-anchoring protein is the E2 protein of Bovine Papilloma Virus type 1 (BPV), and

(b) an isolated, multimerized DNA sequence forming a binding site for said nuclear-anchoring protein is of multiple binding sites the BPV E2 protein incorporated into the vector as a cluster, where said sites can be head-to-tail structures or can be included into said vector by spaced positioning, wherein said vector lacks a papilloma virus origin of replication, and

(c) said mutated *araD* gene, or a catalytically active fragment thereof, as a selection marker.

Claim 35.   (Currently Amended)   A The vector of Claim claim 34, further comprising a deletion in said multimerized DNA sequence.

Claim 36.   (Currently Amended)   A The vector of Claim claim 34, further comprising a mutation in the Shine-Dalgarno sequence of the *araD* gene.

Claim 37.   (Previously Presented)   *E. coli* strain DH5alpha-T1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *ulaF* gene.

Claim 38.   (Previously Presented)   *E. coli* strain DH5alpha-T1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *sgbE* gene.

Claim 39.   (Previously Presented)   *E. coli* strain DH5alpha-T1 deficient of the *araD* gene, *ulaF* gene, and *sgbE* gene.

Claim 40.   (Previously Presented)   *E. coli* strain AG1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *ulaF* gene.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented) *E. coli* strain AG1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *sgbE* gene.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented) *E. coli* strain AG1 deficient of the *araD* gene, *ulaF* gene, and *sgbE* gene.

Claim 43. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting cells transformed with a plasmid containing ~~an *araD* gene, or a catalytically active fragment thereof,~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding an active L-ribulose-5-phosphate 4-epimerase as a selection marker and the gene of interest, said method comprising inserting the plasmid into ~~the *araD* deficient~~ a host cell deficient in L-ribulose-5-phosphate 4-epimerase and growing the cells in a growth medium containing arabinose.

Claim 44-45. (Canceled).

Claim 46. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of ~~Claim 45~~claim 48, wherein ~~said~~a mutation introduces a stop codon into position 8 of said *araD* gene.

Claim 47. (New) The selection system of claim 25, wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises an *araD* gene.

Claim 48. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises an *araD* gene.

Claim 49. (New) The selection system of claim 25, wherein said bacterial cell is an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene and said nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 50. (New) The selection system of claim 25, wherein said bacterial cell is an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene and said nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 18.

Claim 51. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said host cell is an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene and said nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 52. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said host cell is an *E. coli* cell deficient of the *E. coli araD* gene and said nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 18.